

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 and 30-32 are pending in this application and claims 25-29 and 33-46 are withdrawn. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration as the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; and (d) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiner Hollington during the personal interview held August 24, 2006 are gratefully appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

The Office Action objects to claims 1-24 because of informalities. As agreed during the personal interview, the amendment to claim 1 which replaces "fixed" with "near" overcomes the objection to the claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the claims is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-11 and 14-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Soiferman (U.S. Patent No. 5,517,110); claims 12-13 and 21-24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Soiferman; and claims 30-32 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Soiferman in view of Harzanu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,759,850). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

As agreed during the personal interview, Soiferman fails to disclose or suggest a circuit board inspection device that includes a signal change detection unit disposed in a position of a supporting substrate directly opposite to the part or wire of the circuit board, as recited in independent claim 1. Accordingly, independent claim 1, and its dependent claims, are patentable over Soiferman.

Moreover, Harzanu fails to cure deficiencies in Soiferman in disclosing or rendering obvious this feature.

For at least these reasons, none of the applied references, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest the features of independent claim 1. Thus, independent claim 1, and its dependent claims, are patentable over a combination of the applied references. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-24 and 30-32 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: August 29, 2006

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